

S.C.R. No. 23

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The 69th Legislature of the State of Texas charged the Automated Information and Telecommunications Council to devise a long-range telecommunications plan for the state; and

WHEREAS, The council's long-range plan recommends that the state continue to explore the application of technologies such as digital satellite and packet switching; and

WHEREAS, The technology and expertise currently available in the State of Texas make the construction and launching of a "home grown" Texas satellite an imminently realizable goal; and

WHEREAS, The possible uses and applications of a lightweight, 24-hour data communications satellite are numerous and significant, including high speed data transmission from oilfields to home office mainframe computers; transmission of medical data from remote hospitals or emergency sites to major medical centers; positioning of state vehicles such as patrol cars and snowplows; and finally, environmental research capability; and

WHEREAS, The advantages that would accrue to the state if it built its own satellite are varied and far-reaching in scope since the project would help to build a highly technical capability in Texas industries and campuses; and

WHEREAS, The project would also give Texas a start in the most lucrative sector of the space industry; it would provide educational research opportunities and unite universities, industries, and the state government in a common goal; the project would create many jobs, provide new and better services to the people of the state, and bolster the pride and momentum of a rejuvenated Texas economy; and

WHEREAS, The Automated Information and Telecommunications Council is charged with providing technical assistance to governmental bodies in planning, developing, acquiring, and using telecommunications systems (Section 463.024, Government Code) and is authorized to appoint advisory committees as the council considers necessary (Section 463.011, Government Code); and

WHEREAS, The State Department of Highways and Public Transportation has demonstrated a level of expertise in telecommunications unequalled in state government; and

WHEREAS, The State Purchasing and General Services Commission is charged with planning, establishing, and managing the operation of a system of telecommunications services for all state agencies (Section 10.02(a), Article 601b, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes) that is not inconsistent with guidelines adopted by the Automated Information and Telecommunications Council (Section 10.035, Article 601b, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 71st Legislature of the State of Texas direct the Automated Information and Telecommunications Council, the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation, and the State Purchasing and General Services Commission to undertake a joint study of the feasibility of a state-sponsored satellite project; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the council, department, and commission report all findings and recommendations to the 72nd Legislature when it convenes in January, 1991.

Adopted by the Senate on February 2, 1989; and that the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 10, 1989, by a viva-voce vote. Adopted by the House, with amendment, on May 5, 1989.

Approved May 24, 1989.

Filed with the Secretary of State, May 24, 1989.